

## APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

### Open Up Your Seder

Passover starts on Shabbat again this year – Friday, April 19 – so there will be no Shabbat service that night. Some congregants will be looking for a place to celebrate the Seder. Perhaps you can set another place at your Seder table. If you can accommodate another Passover guest or two, please contact the synagogue.

### The Return of the Rabbis

It wasn't so long ago that being the rabbi at B'nai Israel was a solo job. But when we decided to add an assistant rabbi we were blessed with two wonderful people, Fred Greene, first, followed by Rachel Gurevitz. Rabbi Prosnit welcomes them back, on Page 3.

### Tribute Events

Please plan on attending the events to honor Rabbi Prosnit and Wendy Bloch. Details are on Page 4.

### Ask the Next Question

"Jews consider a great question perhaps even more valuable than a great answer," Rabbi Schultz tells us. "It is how we engage with the world." That is particularly true on Passover, when asking questions is a crucial part of the ritual. Page 5.

### Also Inside

Sharing Our Joy .....	P. 2
BIFTY .....	P. 8
Adult Learning .....	P. 8
Donations .....	P. 9
Legacy Fund.....	P. 10
Shabbat Services .....	P. 15

## NEW ASSISTANT RABBI SELECTED



We are excited to welcome Sarah R. Marion as our new Assistant Rabbi.

A former classmate of our own Rabbi Evan Schultz at rabbinical school, Rabbi Marion has been the assistant rabbi at Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore since July of 2016, and was previously a rabbinic intern at Temple Sinai in Stamford. She also spent two years working as a full-time religious educator in Wellesley, Mass.

A graduate of Brandeis University, she was ordained in 2016 after receiving master's degrees in Hebrew literature and religious education at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York.

When she decided to look for a new position, she was interviewed by about 10 synagogues, but she said she quickly decided B'nai Israel was where she wanted to be.

First, she said, she admired Rabbi Schultz,

saying, "I've known Evan for several years, and I know what a brilliant thinker he is and what a mensch he is."

She added that when she came to visit the synagogue, "every single person I met was friendly and down-to-earth."

"I knew I wanted to be part of this community," she said. "I'm really looking for a place that feels like home and a family. After my visit, I didn't want to leave."

Rabbi Marion's husband, Seth, is currently a Jewish educator in Baltimore and will be looking for a job in the Bridgeport area, she said. They have two children: a three-and-a-half-year-old daughter and a nine-month-old son.

She and her husband met at Kutz Camp, she said, when he was 17 and she was 15.

Rabbi Marion said she didn't consider seeking a pulpit of her own at this time.

*Continued on page 10*

## SHARING OUR JOY...

**Daniel and Lisa Hurlbert**, in celebration of the birth of grandson, Ryder Lee Henderson, son of Jessica and Randy Henderson.

**Dan and Debbie Viens**, in celebration of daughter, Jamie Viens, for not only having her photograph selected to be part of the juried photography show at the Fairfield Museum and History Center, but for winning First Prize.



*Jamie Viens and her prize-winning photo*

**Bennett and Sarah Goss**, in celebration of the birth of son, Reid Julian Goss, brother of Lylah and Charlotte.

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## SINCERE SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the bereaved families of:

**Irina Tulchinsky**, sister of Yury Berson  
**Arline Gottesfeld**, mother of Marcia Tubin

**Harriet Burger**  
**Stanley Stein**, father of Owen Stein

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## WELCOME! WELCOME!

A warm welcome to our newest members. We look forward to their participation in our many programs and hope their affiliation will not only enrich their lives, but that of our congregation.

**Neil & Rebecca Solinsky, Miriam and James**  
Millspaugh Drive, Fairfield

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Game Night Returns!

The next Women of B'nai Israel Game Night will be on Wednesday, April 17 from 7 to 9:30 pm at the temple. Take a break from your Seder preparations and spend some time socializing with your friends, meeting new people and playing a few hands of canasta or mahjong. Look for the sign-up sheet that will appear in the Hashavua shortly. Our two previous Game Nights have been a great success. We look forward to seeing you at the next one on April 17.



### Shopping for Passover

Please come visit the gift shop for all of your Passover tabletop needs! We have Seder and matzah plates for every budget, matzah covers and afikomen bags. For the kids we have plague bags, plague masks, plague head bands, games and stickers. Don't miss our unprecedented inventory of frogs in every shape and size!!



We are open most Sundays and the shop can be accessed by our helpful office staff from 9:30 to 4:30 on weekdays.

### Summer Shabbat Services

Mark your calendars: This year we will have three summer Shabbat services at Lake Mohegan. The dates are June 7, July 5, and August 16. More details to follow!

### Mitzvah Morning

Join us on April 28 for a volunteer clean-up day at the Connecticut Audubon Society's Center in Fairfield at 2325 Burr Street. Help is needed with care and clearing of the grounds and wildlife gardens. Work could include weeding, pruning, mulching, planting and clearing. In preparation for the spring and summer season of school visits and summer camp, assistance may also be needed with trail maintenance in the adjoining Larsen Sanctuary.



If you have gardening tools and or gloves, please feel free to bring them. We will be meeting that morning at the Audubon Society at 9:15 and will have coffee and bagels for all volunteers. Please contact Shari Greenblatt at [SGreenblatt@ctaudubon.org](mailto:SGreenblatt@ctaudubon.org), Nina Silberman at [ninahv@aol.com](mailto:ninahv@aol.com), or Danielle Forma [dlforma@aol.com](mailto:dlforma@aol.com) if you have any questions.

### Hitler's Journey

On Tuesday, April 2, at 7:30 p.m. at the Quick Center at Fairfield University, Thomas Weber, a German-born historian, asks how it was possible that Adolf Hitler, returning from World War I as an awkward loner with no clear political ideas, turned into a star propagandist of the nascent Nazi Party. B'nai Israel is one of the sponsors of this event. Tickets are \$20. Quick Center members pay \$15.



FROM THE RABBI'S DESK/RABBI JAMES PROSNIT

## WELCOMING BACK RABBIS GREENE AND GUREVITZ

We called it the Look to the Future Committee and over 20 years ago, chaired by Bernie Jacobs and Andrea Goodman, its members were empowered to consider the challenges and opportunities facing congregations that wanted to stay vital and relevant in the new century.

The mission was to think big. It wasn't to be constrained by finances or by those who felt the way it was done was the way it had to be.

In many respects those conversations, those focus groups shaped the last two decades of B'nai Israel's history. Along with the committee, our participation in Synagogue 2000 provided an itinerary for growth and change as two important needs became clear. It was time to renovate the building and expand the clergy team.

We tackled the latter first.

Ruth Zlotnick was a fifth-year rabbinic student in 2000 and serving as our intern. Her intellect and creativity gave people a taste of what a full-time person could bring to the community. Amy Rich and I set out to hire an assistant rabbi. I've often said that doing so did not make my job easier, it just made it better.

Having a new and younger rabbinic colleague to discuss, plan and program with enabled us to stay on the cutting edge of trends within the Reform Movement. I wasn't getting younger, so the concept of having a second rabbi willing and able to relate to newer, younger congregants was essential.

Rabbi Fred Greene was just the person to put that position on the map. A mensch like few others, he endeared himself to the entire congregation with an all-embracing warmth. His laugh continues to resonate in many of our minds and his teachings drew together an intergenerational community, from the



*Rabbis Fred Greene, James Prosnit and Rachel Gurevitz earlier this year.*

tots in the pre-school to our senior adults. He understood the needs of American Jews and thought creatively about ways for the synagogue to respond. The fact that his three young daughters (now grown women) kept him and us on our toes didn't hurt either.

When he left to begin serving his own congregation outside of Atlanta, we felt blessed by his years here and eagerly awaited the next jewel in our clerical crown. Rachel Gurevitz may have spoken with an unusual accent for us Yankees, but she knew exactly how to inspire a soulful energy in our midst. Her gentle, yet forceful teachings inspired many and her ability to harmonize her voice with Cantor Blum's enhanced the spirituality of our liturgy. As a teacher and preacher, she challenged us on many occasions, encouraging us to consider classic views from differing perspectives and as a compassionate, accessible pastor she touched the lives of many individuals.

Obviously the quality of our second rabbis has been a blessing, and Rabbi Evan Schultz has certainly added his energy,

talents and welcoming personality to our community.

More about the transition to his leadership will be forthcoming, but for this Bulletin a strong shout out to the interns and rabbis who inspired me and us, and whom, I dare say, we helped prepare to become the rabbis that they are. This has been a place of good beginnings and I am proud of how we have been able to help encourage and seed the next generation of solid spiritual leaders for the Reform Movement.

It is in this light that one of my major requests for this season of festivities surrounding my retirement was to bring Fred and Rachel back to B'nai Israel. I know you will enjoy seeing them again and we so look forward to learning a bit about their lives since leaving Bridgeport and how their rabbinates have responded to the changing needs and demographics of the Jewish Community. Elsewhere in the Bulletin you'll find a calendar of events for their weekend of return -- April 12 and 13.

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## EVENTS TO HONOR RABBI PROSNIT.

### WELCOMING BACK FRIENDS

It has been almost 13 years since Fred Greene served B'nai Israel as assistant rabbi, and 7 years since Rachel Gurevitz did so.

But both will be back on the bima in Bridgeport on Friday, April 12, and Saturday, April 13, to lead us in prayer and study and to take part in activities in honor of Rabbi James Prosnit's retirement.

Rabbi Greene worked for a synagogue in Roswell, Ga., near Atlanta, before taking his current post with a congregation in Boulder, Colo. Rabbi Gurevitz has been with a synagogue in Westborough, Mass., near Worcester, since leaving B'Nai Israel.

The Friday evening Shabbat services will be followed by a dinner and an informal conversation about the shape of their rabbinate. They'll discuss what their communities are like, how they have evolved as rabbis and the challenges,



surprises, blessings and burdens they have faced as spiritual leaders of their own congregations.

On Saturday, from 4 to 6 p.m., there will be a program titled "Judaism as a Spiritual Tool Box." Rabbis Gurevitz and Greene will combine some contemplative worship with thoughts about how their new congregations have responded to the high tech crowd in Boston and the Jew Buddhists in Boulder.

They'll also talk about new ways to address the interests and needs of people trying to connect with the Judaism they

may have distanced themselves from earlier in life.

The dinner Friday night is \$20 per person, and RSVP's can be made directly through the synagogue website or by contacting Chris at [chris@cbibpt.org](mailto:chris@cbibpt.org).

Both rabbis say they are indebted to Rabbi Prosnit.

"He genuinely wanted me to find success, make meaningful connections, leave a positive mark," Rabbi Greene said. "He caught me when I failed and celebrated my successes with me. He spent an incredible amount of time investing in me and helping me to think things through."

He offered this personal update: "For folks who might remember... Deborah and I have three kids. Yael is 20 and is a religious studies major at Regis University in Denver. Leora is 19 and is a psychology major at Colorado State

*Continued on page 5*

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### A VISIT FROM RABBI LAWRENCE HOFFMAN



Join us on Friday night, May 3, for a special evening with Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman.

As we mark Rabbi Prosnit's retirement and anticipate the leadership of Rabbi Schultz, how fitting it is that we welcome the professor most influential in helping shape their rabbinate.

For over 40 years, he has combined research, teaching, and a passion for the spiritual renewal of North American Judaism. He co-founded and then co-directed "Synagogue 2000," a trans-denominational project to envision the ideal synagogue "as moral and spiritual center" for the 21st century.

Following services and dinner, Rabbi Hoffman will speak at 8 p.m. on: Authentic Jewish Spirituality -- Even For Skeptics Who Think There Isn't Any.

The dinner is \$20 per person, and RSVP's can be made directly through the synagogue website or by contacting Chris at [chris@cbibpt.org](mailto:chris@cbibpt.org).

### HONORING WENDY BLOCH

On Wednesday, May 22, we will honor and celebrate Wendy Bloch as she and Rabbi Prosnit prepare for a new chapter in their lives.

A wine, cheese and dessert reception, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., will feature a talk by Julie Salamon, a journalist and the author of several books, including her latest, "The Killing of Leon Klinghoffer: An Innocent Bystander."

The event is free, and everyone is welcome.

Ms. Salamon's topic will be "A Journalist Learns to Listen and Build Trust with Families and Victims Across the Divide."

She was a reporter at The Wall Street Journal before spending 11 years as the paper's film critic. She then became a staff journalist at The New York Times, where she was a TV critic and arts reporter.

She has written fiction and nonfiction, including "The Devil's Candy;" "Wendy and the Lost Boys," a biography of the playwright Wendy Wasserstein; and "Rambam's Ladder," a meditation on philanthropy and giving.



*Julie Salamon*



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY/RABBI EVAN SCHULTZ

## PASSOVER AND THE ART OF ASKING QUESTIONS

*The following is adapted from a sermon delivered on March 2, 2019*

The notion of questions as the primary Jewish mode of engagement is, in fact, one of the things I love about being Jewish. Questions are what make us unique, an important element that we add to the world around us.

Jews consider a great question perhaps even more valuable than a great answer. It is how we engage with the world: present us with any text, situation, presentation, and what do we do? We ask questions. It is the way we look at the world -- with a sense of curiosity, a humility that we do not possess all the answers or perhaps even any of the answers.

We are Yisrael, the nation who wrestles, who love process over result, who view the world with a critical eye, we who rarely take anything at face value. We who find redemption in questions, who discover news ideas through questions, we who discover the divine through a great question.

As we enter the month of April and begin to think about the festival of Passover, I want to emphasize that the primary element of the Passover Seder is not necessarily telling the story, but encouraging our children to ask great

questions.

Consider for a moment, what is the most widely known part of the Seder, the words that the very youngest at the table is asked to recite? The four questions! What is the message, the notion conveyed to our children sitting around the table? What is the most important element of living as a Jew on this night of celebrating freedom? Our deep desire as a people to ask great questions.

If you had only asked a question, dayenu, it would have been enough!

Dr. Erica Brown asserts that the whole purpose of the Passover Seder is to elicit questions from our children. She writes, "Boredom occurs when we run out of questions because it demonstrates that we have run out of interest. Combating boredom in the Jewish classroom, or any classroom for that matter, is ultimately about the stimulation of questions. Returning to the Seder table, that ancient classroom of Jewish history, we find that Maimonides encouraged us to place objects, educational props, on the table and to use the complexity of the Haggadah —to make the children ask.

"The purpose of Passover is not to tell our children the story of Jewish peoplehood; it is to make the evening interesting

enough for them to ask questions. Telling, especially repeated telling, leads to a flat story with a dull landscape. Asking leads to exploration, further questioning, engagement, creativity. Boredom will only leave the classroom when we have done a good enough job of making the children ask."

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**Jews consider a great question perhaps even more valuable than a great answer.**

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Rabbi Steven Greenberg adds, "We train children at the Passover Seder to ask why, because tyrants are undone and liberty is won with a good question. It is for this reason that God loves it when we ask why."

I wish you a wonderful Passover festival, and hope that all of our Seders prompt us to engage in the powerful Jewish art of asking questions!

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## WELCOMING ..... FROM PAGE 4

University in Fort Collins, and my youngest, Noa, is a senior in high school.

Rabbi Gurevitz said Rabbi Prosnit was "very much a mentor in a supportive and encouraging way," adding that "He wanted me to try new things and was never a micromanager."

She said that Rabbi Prosnit's collaborative approach "set me up well" for work in her congregation, which has a three-member senior team. "We work collaboratively, and often share ideas with each other. It's very much a feeling of 'stronger together.'"

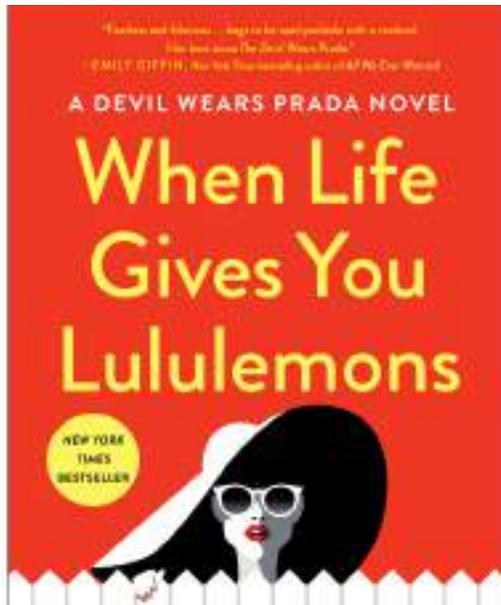
Rabbi Prosnit supported her in founding the Tent of Abraham interfaith program and in her experimentation with different kinds of spirituality.

"He never behaved like he was the boss," she said, "and that's not the norm."



Book Luncheon and  
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**WHEN**

Friday, May 10, 2019  
11am - 2pm

**WHERE**

Congregation B'nai Israel  
2710 Park Avenue  
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**Raffle Prizes, Exclusive Vendors &  
Book Signing**



**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!**



FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER/IRA J. WISE  
ON BEING CHOSEN

When you share things other people say, it can go two ways. If you claim their words as your own, it is plagiarism. And that is not a good thing. On the other hand, Pirkei Avot 6.6 says that “one who says something in the name of the one who said it brings redemption to the world.” Our world is definitely in need of redemption, so let’s hear from those who have taught us best – our students!

In Kitah Hey (5<sup>th</sup> grade), Susan Walden asked her students to pair up and pretend to be Moses. As Moses they had to answer the question “Why did God choose me (of all people) to lead the Israelites out of Egypt?” Their answers are brilliant in so many ways...these are excerpts from much longer answers.

“God said I was honest, selfless and brave and I respect Him/Her. Maybe I should take the chance!” – Rachel and Lila

“I think God chose me to lead the Israelites because I followed God’s command.” – Kate and Ethan

“God chose me because He noticed me having compassion and putting others before myself.” – Adam and Jack

“As a leader I give the people what they want and inspire them to do what they do.” – Brooke and Isaac

“I realized that the Israelites are important and they were suffering.” – Ruby and Sophia

As I read their answers, I hear three things. First I hear the plain meaning – what the rabbis call the *p’shat*. They are learning the stories. They are getting the information.

**It is exciting to see learning happen. You can almost visualize the gears turning.**

Second, I hear them putting themselves into the Torah. All of their answers are in the first person – “I realized,” “I was honest.” “I followed.” By writing themselves into the story, by trying to see through Moses’ eyes, they are

interpreting the text. The rabbis called this *drash*.

Finally, I hear a clue of where these stories are taking them. “I was honest, selfless and brave.” “I had compassion and put others before myself.” The rabbis referred to these clues in the text as *remez*. The *remez* here is also about what we are seeing these young people becoming. If they could not see themselves as possibly having these qualities, I am not sure they would have answered the same way.

It is exciting to see learning happen. You can almost visualize the gears turning or the flow of electrons if you prefer the digital version. It is exciting to see

teachers like Susan make this happen by challenging the students to dig deep into themselves.

And I visualize these same students in five years as members of our Confirmation class. Just as this year’s class did a few weeks ago, they will travel to Washington, D.C., with our rabbi. They will use the skills of discerning the plain meaning, interpretation and seeking clues as they encounter issues before Congress. They will stake out a position rooted in Jewish values. Then they will go up to Capitol Hill and tell our representatives how they expect them to vote.

It is a powerful lesson. And it started in Kitah Hey. And in Gan (K). And in all the grades in between.

L’shalom,

Ira J. Wise, D.J.R.E

Director of Education



Rabbi Prosnit with Confirmation class students on their recent visit to Washington.

# BIFTY

Join BIFTY for our April programs on Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 in the BIFTY Lounge! We look forward to seeing you there!

April 11- Are you a superhero aficionado? Do you know all about Black Panther, Superman, Spiderman, and Captain America? Join us for an awesome Superhero Program!

April 25- Come spend time with our emissaries, Yuval and Rotem, as they run an incredible activity!

\*There is no BIFTY on April 18- enjoy your vacation!

Follow us on Instagram at “cbi.bifty” and



*BIFTY has fun making new friends at one of our winter programs!*



## ADULT JEWISH LEARNING AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

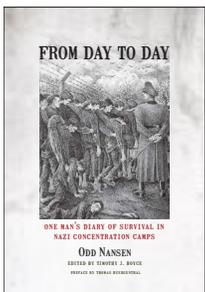


### Adult Round Table

**Thursday, April 4 and May 2 at Noon**

Gloria Katz facilitates a discussion about current events for anyone who wants to go beyond the headlines. Join us the first Thursday of every month, and bring a sandwich, your opinion and an open mind.

### A Concentration Camp Diary, Lecture by Timothy Boyce Monday, April 29 at 7 p.m.



Timothy Boyce, who practiced law for many years in Connecticut and North Carolina, will discuss and read excerpts from “From Day to Day,” a World War II concentration camp

diary that has been hailed by The New Yorker as “among the most compelling documents to come out of the war.” It was secretly written by Odd Nansen, a Norwegian, the son of a Nobel Peace Prize winner, who was arrested in 1942

and held captive for the duration of the war in various Nazi camps in Norway and Germany. Boyce will explain who Nansen was, why he was arrested, why he wrote the diary, how he preserved it, and why this diary is as important today as it was when first written.



### 13th Annual Lecture in Jewish and Christian Engagement:

**“Female Faith Leaders in Collaboration: Rabbis, Nuns, and Ministers for (nearly) 50 Years”**  
Thursday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.

**Dolan School of Business Dining Room, Fairfield University**



Rabbi Carole B. Balin, Ph.D.; Auburn Seminary, professor emerita of history, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; Response by Dr. Elena Procario-Foley, Iona College\

### Reform Jews in a Library Talking about God

**Mondays, 7-8:30 p.m. April 1, 8, 15**  
**Natt Family Library**

Join with Rabbi Schultz for a course exploring modern Jewish theology. We will look at some of the key 20th and 21st century Jewish thinkers and their unique notions of God, while creating space to share questions and thoughts about the divine.

## APRIL DONATIONS

(Please note that only contributions of \$10.00 or more will be acknowledged with a card and *Bulletin* listing.)

### **Rabbi Prosnit Discretionary Fund**

**Mark Abrams**, in memory of mother, Sara Abrams; wishing Andrea Goodman a speedy recovery.

**Bonnie Alterman**, in memory of Sidney Alterman.

**The Dizney Family**, in memory of Elliot Masch.

**Aleksey and Raisa Ledvich**, in memory of grandmother, Sarah Ledvich; in memory of grandfather, Menashe Goldenfarb.

**Beth and Randy Reich & Family**, in memory of father and grandfather, Harry Burchman.

**Glenn and Amy Rich**, a donation.

**Raisa Shikhman and Family**, in loving memory of Leonid Shikhman and Dan Shichman, husband of Rita Shichman.

**Laura Sydney-Pulton**, in honor of Rabbi Jim Prosnit and Wendy Bloch, on the marriage of Jake Prosnit to Jenna Weinberg.

**Judy Yasser**, in loving memory of mother, Florence Yasser.

### **Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund**

**Renée and Rick Beitman & Lauren and Etan Shalem**, in honor of the birth of Arabella Shalem and with thanks to Rabbi Prosnit.

**George and Chris Markley**, in memory of Martha Markley.

**Phyllis Reiter and Family**, in memory of Daniel Shichman, husband of Rita Shichman.

**Sheila and Burton Yaffie**, in loving memory of mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Mildred Skydel Seigel.

### **Rabbi Schultz Discretionary Fund**

**Laura and Bruce Braverman**, with appreciation to Rabbi Schultz.

**Robin Cautin and Frank Enos**, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Enos; in appreciation of Rabbi Schultz.

**Jan and Bernie Jacobs**, in memory of Benjamin Jacobs.

**Carol Offenbach**, in memory of Sidney Loewith Goldstein and Helene Cohn Offenbach.

**Beth and Randy Reich & Family**, in memory of father and grandfather, Sidney Loewith Goldstein.

### **Music Fund**

**Laura and Bruce Braverman**, in memory of Daniel Shichman, husband of Rita Shichman.

**Robin Cautin and Frank Enos**, in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Enos: in appreciation of Cantor Blum.

**Linda and Barry Diamond**, in memory of Arline Gottesfeld, mother of Marcia Tubin.

**John and Ronnie Dubrowin**, in memory of Arline Gottesfeld, mother of Marcia Tubin.

**Karin Newman**, in memory of Sidney Newman.

**Judy Rankell**, in memory of beloved husband, Al Rankell.

**Beth and Randy Reich & Family**, in memory of father and grandfather, Stanley Reich.

**Naomi Schaffer and Roger Jackson**, in memory of Arline Gottesfeld, mother of Marcia Tubin.

**Eileen and Howard Tolk**, in honor of sister-in-law, Judy Zeisler, on her special birthday.

### **Enhancement Fund**

**Michael Greenspan**, in memory of father, Sidney Greenspan.

**Alida and Al Kleban**, in loving memory of sister, Eleanor Levin.

**Stan and Judy Lessler**, in memory of Claire Lessler.

**Ruth Madwed**, in honor of nephew, Jeffrey Madwed, on his special birthday.

**Luise Mann**, in honor of Dale and Stewart Barcham, on the engagement of Lindsay and Adam.

**Howard and Julie Rosenbaum**, in memory of Junith Rothstein, mother of Julie Rosenbaum, grandmother of Abigail and Jonah Rosenbaum.

**Laura Sydney-Pulton**, in memory of Kenneth Epstein, son of Eloise Epstein.

**Eileen and Howard Tolk**, in loving memory of mother, Tess Velenchik.

### **Nursery School Enrichment Fund**

**Eric and Ruth Gross**, in honor of Susan and Arnie Zuckman, on the birth of grandson, Alexander Jack.

**Jan and Bernie Jacobs**, in memory of Arnold Kusnitz, father of Joe Kusnitz.

### **Nursery School Scholarship Fund**

**Luise Mann**, in honor of Renée and Rick Beitman, on the naming of granddaughter, Arabella.

**Laura Sydney-Pulton**, in honor of Zack and Becky Halpern, on the birth of son, Jonah.

### **Slepian Floral Fund**

**Laura and Bruce Braverman**, in memory of Harriet Burger.

**Serena and Arnie Sher**, in loving memory of Alice Rost, sister-in-law of Ellen and Sam Rost.

### **Mazon**

**Myrna Kaufman**, in memory of mother, Florence Newman.

### **Religious School Scholarship Fund**

**B'nai Israel Brotherhood**, a donation.

**Marty and Alayne Burger**, in memory of Daniel Shichman, husband of Rita Shichman.

**David and Judy Pressler**, in appreciation to Ira Wise.

### **Rabbi Arnold Sher Social Action Fund**

**Green and Gross, P.C.**, in memory of Daniel Shichman, husband of Rita Shichman.

**Eric and Ruth Gross**, in honor of Stew and Dale Barcham, on the engagement of daughter, Lindsay Barcham, to Adam Gottfried; in memory of Beverly Berkson, sister of Lauren Mandel.

**Sam and Ellen Rost**, in memory of Harold Epstein.

### **Jim Abraham Education Fund for Jewish Leadership**

**Samuel Miller and Family**, in memory of Zelda Miller.

### **Charles Fried Keshet Fund**

**Caren and Bill Schwartz**, in memory of Arline Gottesfeld, mother of Marcia Tubin.

### **Arnold & Doris Tower Fund**

**Steve and Ellen Tower**, in memory of Julius Menn.

### **Yakhani Caring Fund**

**Barbara and Mark Edinberg**, in memory of Arline Gottesfeld, mother of Marcia Tubin.

## NEW ASSISTANT RABBI ..... FROM PAGE 1

“I work best in collaborative relationships,” she said. “I still feel like I have a lot of learning to do, and I want to have a thought partner.”

Her congregation in Baltimore has been going through a difficult time. The longtime senior rabbi was fired for ethical misconduct, and she had to take over as the religious leader. She noted in a personal statement submitted with her resume that she told her congregants: “This is the place where we move from pain and loss and disappointment and grief, to love and joy and celebration and birth. Because of all this, our sacred community can and will endure.”

Nina Silberman, who led the search

committee, noted that in a two-hour interview, Rabbi Marion “engaged us in a beautiful, informative D’var Torah as well as responded to committee questions with poise and insight.”

In her previous position, among her many accomplishments, she helped create a multigenerational chavurah called Come as You Are that brought women of all ages together. She also led “Rosh Chodesh: It’s a Girl Thing” groups for adolescent girls.

And she helped plan and led a listening campaign called What’s Next that created task forces on immigration and health-care.



### Honoring Rabbi James Prosnit Twenty-Nine Years

We greatly appreciate the generosity of the following congregants who honor Rabbi Prosnit by helping establish the Rabbi James Prosnit Legacy Fund.

#### **Mazel Tov Circle**

Elaine and Juda Chetrit  
Marcia Cohen and Mark Hotchkiss

#### **Blessings Circle**

The Greenbaum Family  
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*Rabbi Schultz went to Florida recently to meet with some of the congregation's past presidents: from left Debbie Weisman, Randy Reich, Laura Braverman and Willi Berkowitz.*

## SHABBAT SERVICE SCHEDULE

(Fridays at 6:00 p.m. where indicated, preceded by an Oneg Shabbat at 5:30 p.m.)

### Friday, April 5

6:00 p.m. Service  
Torah Portion – Tazria,  
Lev. 12:1-13:59  
Haftarah – 11 Kings  
4:42-5:19

Torah Portion –  
M'tzora, Lev. 14:1-  
15:33  
Haftarah – 11 Kings  
7:3-20

### Saturday, April 20

9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Matzah  
Brei Breakfast  
10:00 a.m. Passover Service

### Saturday, April 6

8:00 a.m. Service  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study  
9:50 a.m. Havurah for Families  
with Young Children  
– with Alexa Cohen –  
“How to have a Seder  
with kids”  
11:00 a.m. Bar Mitzvah of Noah  
Wizda, son of Paul and  
Tracie Wizda

### Saturday, April 13

8:00 a.m. Service  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study

### Friday, April 26

10:00 a.m. Last Day of Passover -  
Yizkor Service  
6:00 p.m. Service  
Torah Portion – Acharei  
Mot (Part 1), Lev. 16:1-  
18:30

### Friday, April 19

6:00 p.m. No Service in  
observance of the first  
Seder. If anyone is in  
need of a place to attend  
a Seder, please let us  
know and we will be  
happy to help you find  
one.  
Torah Portion – Exod.  
12:3-42; 13:3-10  
Haftarah – Isaiah 43:1-8

### Saturday, April 27

8:00 a.m. Service  
9:00 a.m. Brotherhood Breakfast  
9:30 a.m. Torah Study  
9:50 a.m. Havurah for Families  
with Young Children

### Friday, April 12

6:00 p.m. Service with Rabbis  
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## A NIGHT OF QUESTIONS

On March 1, we held our inaugural “Ask the Rabbis” event to honor Rabbi Prosnit.

More than 100 people gathered to hear three generations of rabbis address topics that ranged from light and personal to more serious.

Jeff Ackerman emceed the evening, an idea that was the brainchild of Jackie Madwed and was organized by Mindy Siegel and Luise Mann Burger. Jeff threw out batting practice questions to loosen up the Rabbis who were asked to share their favorite book, movie, and favorite TV show.

Rabbis Arnold Sher and James Prosnit mentioned real books, movies and TV shows, while Rabbi Evan Schultz said his favorite book was his wedding album. The crowd oohhed and aaahhed, and the evening was off to a roaring start.

Jeff then started throwing Syndergaard-like fastballs and Kershaw-like sliders with questions around anti-Semitism on

college campuses (Rabbi Prosnit thinks it is important for college students to connect with Jewish organizations), interfaith marriages (Rabbi Schultz will perform them), outspoken sermons on controversial issues of the day (Rabbi Sher believes that it is the responsibility of the rabbi to be outspoken on controversial issues and referenced his article in 1968 called “For Whom Does the Rabbi Speak”), and advice and insights to Evan as he prepares to take over as senior rabbi.

It was mentioned that Rabbi Sher was at B’nai Israel for 22 years and Rabbi Prosnit for 30 years; two rabbis in 52 years; the Mets have had 18 managers, the Yankees 24 since 1968. The long-term continuity speaks loudly of the “fit” for the Rabbi’s love of B’nai Israel and B’nai Israel’s love and respect for the rabbis.

Jeff then opened the floor for questions from the audience which ranged from one about the acceptance of black Jews



from Africa into Israel, to a final question of the evening to the rabbis’ wives on the pros and cons of being a rabbi’s wife.

The cons were obvious - the time commitment, the constant disruption and how the first words of their children were “meeting” instead of “mom” or “dad.” The pros were how perfect the fit has been for them personally and their families as a member of the B’nai Israel community.

To view a video of the event, go to the synagogue web site; <https://www.cbibpt.org/worship/live-streaming/>